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DEF 6-5 CHINAT

RMR

Bangkok 56

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Action

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Info

SECRET

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DEF-5 Chinat

VV MJA504TCA324
RR RUEHCR
DE RUMTBK 167K 1890748
ZNY SSSSS
R 080655Z ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC 56
INFO RUMJRV/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 1
RUASTP/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI THREE
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 11
RUMJDH/AMCONGEN HONG KONG TWO
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC 18 CITE 080655Z
STATE GRNC
BT
S E C R E T JULY 8

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

LIMDIS

DEPTEL 17 AND RANGOON'S 1

IN ITEMS CITED RANGOON'S REFTEL WE FAIL TO SEE EVIDENCE THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT CHINAT HARASSING OPERATIONS AGAINST YUNNAN ARE LIKELY. AMORPHOUS IRREGULAR FORCES UNDER GENERALS TUAN, LI AND FU ARE NOT AGGRESSIVE (FTB-8917) AND DIRECTLY GRC-CONTROLLED FORCE OF GENERAL MA, AND KMT 2ND SECTION, LACK CAPABILITY. QUOTE SOURCE COMMENT FCT-8928 WHICH EXPRESSES DOUBT ANY

PAGE TWO RUMTBK 167K S E C R E T LIMDIS
ATTACKS WILL ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE. FTB-8931 IS ACCOUNT OF OPERATIONS INITIATED BY BURMA ARMY AGAINST FORCES OF SAWBWA OF KOKANG, IN WHICH LATTER WITHDREW TO THAILAND. ASSISTANCE IN THAT INSTANCE GIVEN BY LI WEN-HUAN'S IRREGULARS NOT SURPRISING AS LI HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN KOKANG OPIUM TRAFFIC.

IN PAST FEW MONTHS, ACCORDING TO OUR BEST INFORMATION, IRREGULARS AS WELL AS IBMND AND KMT 2ND SECTION UNITS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWING FROM BURMA INTO THAILAND RATHER THAN ACTUALLY INCREASING HARASSMENT, MUCH AS THEY MIGHT LIKE TO DO SO.

THAI APPRAISAL OF CHINESE IRREGULARS (FTB-8917) IS FAIRLY REALISTIC. RTG EFFORT AT SUPPRESSION WOULD PROBABLY BE UNSUCCESSFUL, AND MIGHT ACTUALLY AGGRAVATE SITUATION BY CREATING DISTURBANCES IN BORDER AREAS. FORCING SOME IRREGULARS BACK

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INTO BURMA, AND CONCEIVABLY CAUSING OTHERS TO DEFECT TO COMMUNISTS ON GROUND THEY WERE "BETRAYED." COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF IRREGULARS OF ANY STRIPE IS PROBABLY UNATTAINABLE OBJECTIVE.

SEYMOUR TOPPING STORY WAS UNFOUNDED DISTORTION PARTLY TRACED TO AMERICAN CONSULTANT TO RTG WHO RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF HE RECOGNIZED PHRASES IN TOPPING ARTICLE AND REALIZED WITH DISMAY TWISTED INTERPRETATION WHICH HAD BEEN PUT ON HIS OWN WORDS.

PAGE THREE RUMTBK 167K S E C R E T LIMDIS
TO SUMMARIZE, WHILE RECOGNIZING BURMESE HYPERSENSITIVITY ON THIS SUBJECT, WE SEE NO SPECIAL OCCASION FOR DEMARCHE AT PRESENT TIME, THOUGH WE CONSIDER GRC INCLINATION TOWARD HARASSMENT ILL ADVISED AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO MORE VALUABLE OBJECTIVE OF INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION. THAI SENSITIVITIES MUST ALSO BE RECOGNIZED, AND DEMARCHE TO THEM ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD ALSO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

GP-2. MARTIN